

REMARKS

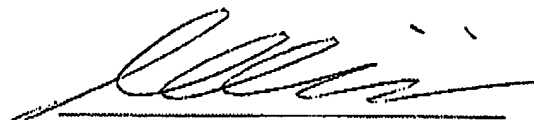
Prior to the present amendment and response, claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. By the present amendment and response, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended, while claims 3, 8-13, and 17 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-2, 4-7, 14-16, and 18-20 remain in the present application. Allowance of all pending claims 1-2, 4-7, 14-16, and 18-20 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has found claims 3 and 17 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. *Present Office Action, page 8, paragraph 12*. Amended claims 1 and 14 are independent forms of claims 3 and 17 respectively. Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 14, and their respective dependent claims 2, 4-7, and 15-16, 18-20, are allowable according to the Examiner's comments on page 8 of the present Office Action. As such, an early notice of allowance directed to all pending claims 1-2, 4-7, 14-16, and 18-20 is respectfully requested.

Attorney Docket No.: 0180181

Respectfully Submitted,
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Date: 8/9/05



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